

THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, anyone watching the news this week would have been impressed with the President's sudden commitment to promoting workplace flexibility, but my question is this: Where was the President last year when I introduced the Working Families Flexibility Act; a bill that would allow an employee to choose between cash wages or paid time off for overtime work—a valuable opportunity to spend more time with family. Not only did the President oppose this bill—at the request of the Washington union bosses who are spending \$35 million to run false and misleading campaign ads against Republicans—but his Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, calls it a poison pill. Why the sudden change of heart?

Madam Speaker, my guess is the President's army of political hacks and spin gurus suddenly discovered in their polling that American women overwhelmingly support the Republican Working Families Flexibility Act, and they had better do some good ole stump proposals just to cover their electoral bases. While Washington pundits might praise the President's ability to hijack important issues for political gain, this kind of gamesmanship only hurts the American people and their ability to balance the conflicting pressures of work and family—especially working women. This is hardly a formula for election year success.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF BOMB EXPLOSION IN SAUDI ARABIA

(Mr. VENTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VENTO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of life that took place in Saudi Arabia, those United States troops and soldiers serving a peacekeeping mission, an important peacekeeping mission. Nearly 2,500 United States troops, mainly Air Force, are still stationed in Saudi Arabia today. I want to extend my sympathies and that of this House to those in uniform that are serving and the families that have experienced this loss of life, as well as the civilians and other loss of life that occurred. Nearly 150, perhaps more, were injured. We know at least 24 have lost their lives in this tragic accident.

The President rightly has put a top priority on this in terms of investigating and trying to deal with the forces within Saudi Arabia, even as we are doing peacekeeping, that are politically unstable and causing serious problems and outrageous actions and issues that we face. I think it is impor-

tant to remember that any time anyone puts on a uniform, whether in war or in peacekeeping, obviously their lives are at risk. And it is enormously important as the U.S. Nation assign duties and responsibilities and assume the role that we do, that leadership consider the security, safety, and mission risks that our Armed Forces experience in the important and changing role that they fulfill.

ATTEMPTING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GINGRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGRICH. Madam Speaker, I just rise to report again to my colleagues that we are trying to reach an agreement with the Clinton administration on health reform so that every working family that has health insurance would be able to change jobs, would be able to continue their insurance without any worry about a pre-condition.

We think it is very, very important that every American know that once they are in the insurance system, they are there for the rest of their life. I have had personal experience in my family, I think every Member has either family or friends who have had the experience of not being able to buy health insurance because of a pre-condition.

We can reach an agreement this week before we go home. It is good for America. It is important for America. This House has voted to go to conference. We should pass health reform to guarantee that every family in America has access to health insurance without regard to preconditions, and we should do it before we go home this week. I hope the Clinton administration will reach an agreement with us today to have that kind of health reform for all Americans.

HORROR IN SAUDI ARABIA

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, like my colleagues previously, I rise to offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and the injured survivors of the bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Also, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the minority of this House, I would like to thank them for recognizing this as the priority issue of the day in allowing the first few of us to speak to this concern.

Terrorism and extremism know no territorial boundary. We must, here in this House, engage the international community in working vigilantly to identify and eradicate the perpetrators

of terrorism at their cancerous roots. We in this body must give our law enforcers the tools they need to infiltrate terrorist organizations, deport terrorists and choke their funding mechanisms.

As President Clinton said yesterday, whoever harms an American anywhere in the world will pay. The difference, however, between us and the perpetrators of this kind of crime is that we resolve our disputes in a legal fashion using the rule of law and not of the jungle or desert.

LIBERALS WANT TO SCUTTLE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I wish to follow up on Speaker GINGRICH's comment on health care.

It is very simple to see what is going on here. Liberals lost the battle over nationalizing health care. Now they want to scuttle any health care plan that does not make the Government bigger. It is a shame. It is a shame because millions of American families would benefit from the health care reform bill being held up by the liberals in the Senate. Millions of people would be able to establish medical savings accounts. Many others would be forced to remain in job lock because they have a prior condition.

Madam Speaker, the health care reform bill now before Congress has bipartisan support. In fact, last week, 25 Democrats sent a letter to President Clinton urging him to support these commonsense reforms that the American people have been demanding for years. They do not want more government. They want portable, available, and affordable health care.

Madam Speaker, let us pass the health care bipartisan reform bill now.

WHITE HOUSE USE OF SECRET FBI AND IRS FILES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the White House use of secret FBI files was bad. The White House use of secret IRS files is even worse. After all this, FBI Director Freeh said it is an honest mistake and Secretary Rubin blamed it on a junior detailee. Beam me up.

Who in God's name gave the White House the power to snoop into our private lives? Who at the FBI has the right to violate the Privacy Act? Who at the Internal Revenue Service has the right to violate their oaths and betray American taxpayers? These are not honest mistakes. They are looking day in and day out. Looks like a crime to me.

When Congress allows the White House to act like the KGB, Congress allows the Government of Jefferson and